

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pet drinking fountain comprising
a base and a water supply tank having a closed generally dome-shaped top disposed on the base and extending upwardly therefrom,
a water collection area in the base disposed beneath the tank,
a channel in the base substantially surrounding the bottom portion of the dome-shaped tank top,
a water pump disposed in the collection area and connected to a duct for directing water in the area to the upper portion of the tank for causing water from the duct to spill down essentially unrestricted over the outer surface of the tank and into the channel,
a discharge passage in the lower portion of the tank top communicating with the base for enabling water in the tank to flow to the collection area of the base when the water in the base falls below a predetermined level,
and a drinking container in communication with the channel and the collection area from which pets may drink water directed to it from the channel.
2. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 1 wherein a filter is mounted in the collection area and filters water in the base before it is drawn into the pump.
3. (Currently Amended) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 2 wherein the duct extends from the pump upwardly through the tank to the top of the outer surface of the dome-shaped top ~~upper portion thereof~~.
4. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 3 wherein a portion of the water discharged at the top of the duct flows directly into the drinking container.

5. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 1 wherein the pump is continuously driven by an electric motor.

6. (Currently Amended) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 1 wherein the ~~tank~~ is dome-shaped top and has a smooth outer surface allowing the water to flow smoothly ~~down~~ toward the base.

7. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 1 wherein the drinking container is disposed to the side of the tank.

8. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 1 wherein a food dish is connected to the base.

9. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 8 wherein the food dish is adjacent the drinking container.

10. (Currently Amended) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 1 wherein access is provided for the ~~animal~~ pet to the dome-shaped surface of the tank enabling the animal to lap water flowing down the surface ~~thereof~~ or in the drinking container.

11. (Currently Amended) A device for providing drinking water to pets comprising,
a base having a tank support and a drinking bowl,
a water chamber in the base having an inlet from the bowl for enabling water in the bowl to pass into the chamber,
a closed tank disposed on the support and a duct extending from the chamber toward the top of the outer surface of the tank,
a pump in the base connected to the duct for pumping water from the chamber through the duct ~~and for~~ for discharging the water over substantially the entire outer surface of the top ~~onto the exterior~~ of the tank,
a gutter about the lower portion of the tank for collecting water flowing down the ~~exterior~~ outer surface thereof and directing it into the bowl,

a passage in the tank communicating with the chamber and a valve for opening and closing the passage,

means connected to the valve for opening the passage when the tank is on the base,
and a sleeve defining the passage and extending into the chamber with the lower portion of the sleeve positioned to be fully submerged in water in the chamber for preventing the flow of water from the tank into the chamber when said end is fully submerged and allowing water to flow from the tank to the chamber when a portion of the lower end of the sleeve is above the surface of the water in the chamber enabling air to flow into the tank.

12. (Currently Amended) A device for providing drinking water to pets comprising,
a bowl for receiving water and from which pets may drink,
a water circulation system including a water chamber separate from the bowl and means enabling water to flow from the bowl to the chamber,

a reserve water tank for supplying additional water to the system when the water level falls below an established level in the chamber, said tank having a substantially smooth dome-shaped top,

and pump means in the system for discharging water from the chamber onto the ~~surface of the tank,~~ said means including the surface for directing water from the surface upper portion of the dome-shaped top causing water to flow down over the full surface of the dome-shaped top and into the bowl.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 12 wherein the tank includes a dome and a removable bottom cover attached to the dome-shaped top for enabling the ~~dome~~ tank to be filled when the ~~dome~~ tank is reversed and the cover removed.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 13 wherein a handle is connected to the dome-shaped top for lifting the ~~dome~~ tank.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 14 wherein the handle provides a support for the ~~dome~~ tank when ~~the dome~~ it is inverted.

16. (Original) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 13 wherein the tank includes valve means for enabling water to flow from the tank to the chamber, means responsive to positioning the tank in the system for opening the valve means, and means for controlling pressure in the tank for preventing water in the tank flowing out the valve means to the chamber when the valve means is open.

17. (Original) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 16 wherein the pump means is in continuous operation when the tank is in the system.

18. (Original) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 11 wherein the duct extends through the tank.

19. (Currently Amended) A device for providing drinking water to pets as described in claim 12 wherein the circulation system includes a duct connected to the pump and extending through the water tank for carrying water from the chamber to the surface of the ~~tank~~ dome-shaped top.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of providing moving aerated drinking water to pets comprising the steps of,
providing a tank having a downwardly sloping external surface with a duct extending upwardly through the interior of the tank,
providing a trough below the top of the tank and a water chamber in communication with trough,
providing a pump for pumping water from the chamber through the duct onto the tank external surface enabling pets to lap water flow on said surface,
providing water in the tank,
and discharging water from the tank into the chamber when water in the chamber falls below a pre-established level.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[19]] 20 further providing a drinking bowl interposed in the flow of water between the tank surface and the chamber from which pets can drink water as an alternative from lapping water from the tank surface.

22. (Currently Amended) A pet drinking fountain comprising,
a base and, a well in the base for collecting water,
a water tank on the base providing a reservoir of water for the fountain, said tank having a dome shaped top from which pets can lap water flowing down its external surface and a detachable bottom cover,

a first passage in the bottom cover providing communication between the interior of the tank and the well and a valve associated with the first passage for closing it, the interior of the tank being closed to the ambient pressure when the water in the well closes the first passage,

an actuator in the base causing the valve to remain open when the tank is placed on the base, said valve allowing ambient pressure to enter the tank when the water falls below a prescribed level to open the first passage thereby causing water in the tank to flow into the well until the water closes ~~the~~ said first passage,

a duct, operatively independent of the first passage and valve, extending through the tank from the well to the upper external surface of the dome and a pump for directing water in the well upwardly through the duct causing the water to spill onto and spread about the dome surface from which pets can lap water flowing down the dome surface,

a channel disposed adjacent the lower portion of and encircling a major portion of the circumference of the dome for collecting water that flows down the surface of the dome,

a water dish disposed adjacent the channel into which the channel directs water it collects from the surface of the dome, said dish providing a source of drinking water for pets,

and a second passage connecting the dish to the well enabling water to flow into the well when the water in the dish exceeds a prescribed height.

23. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 22 wherein a food dish is connected to the base.

24. (Withdrawn) A water reservoir for a pet drinking fountain comprising,
a dome-shaped top open at the bottom and bottom cover detachably secured to the top and together forming a closed chamber, said chamber being filled with water by removing the bottom cover and inverting the top,
a duct as an integral part of the top extending downwardly through an opening in the bottom cover,
a retainer operatively associated with the duct for detachably holding the top and bottom cover together,
at least one seal engaging both the top and bottom cover,
and an extractor for pushing the top and bottom cover apart to break the seal.

25. (Withdrawn) A water reservoir for a pet drinking fountain as described in claim 24 wherein,
a seal engages the duct and opening and another seal engages the peripheries of the top and bottom cover.

26. (Withdrawn) A water reservoir for a pet drinking fountain comprising,
a dome-shaped top open at the bottom and bottom cover detachably secured to the top and together forming a closed chamber, said chamber being filled with water by removing the bottom cover and inverting the top,
a duct as an integral part of the top extending downwardly through an opening in the bottom cover,
a retainer operatively associated with the duct for detachably holding the top and bottom cover together,
and a handle connected to the top for carrying the dome and bottom cover and providing a stand for the top when the top is inverted.

27. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 22 wherein the channel is connected to the base.

28. (Original) A pet drinking fountain as described in claim 22 wherein the channel is pitched causing water to flow in a prescribed direction into the dish causing the water to circulate in the dish.

29. (Currently Amended) The pet drinking fountain as defined in claim 22 wherein a retainer operatively associated with the dome and bottom cover for holding the two together, and a seal engaging both the dome and bottom cover[[s]].

30. (Previously Presented) The pet drinking fountain as defined in claim 29 wherein an extractor is operatively associated with the retainer for pushing the dome and cover apart to break the seal.

31. (Previously Presented) The pet drinking fountain as defined in claim 29 wherein the retainer is attached to the duct and supports the bottom cover.

32. (Currently Amended) The pet drinking fountain as defined in claim 31 wherein the retainer is threaded ~~into~~ onto the duct and moves axially with respect to the dome so as to be removable from the duct when the bottom cover is to be separated from the dome.

33. (Previously Presented) The pet drinking fountain as defined in claim 32 wherein unscrewing the retainer from the duct forces the bottom cover away from the dome.

34. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 13 wherein a retainer maintains the dome and cover together.

35. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 34 wherein removal of the retainer separates the dome and cover.

36. (New) A pet drinking fountain comprising
a base and a generally dome-shaped tank disposed on the base for hold water as a reserve supply for the fountain,

a water collection chamber in the base,
a duct extending upwardly from the chamber and operatively connected to a pump for directing water from the chamber onto the top of the external surface of the dome-shaped tank causing the water to flow down over a substantial portion of the external surface so that a pet may lap water flowing down on said surface,
and a passage in the tank for discharging water in the tank when the water in the chamber falls below a prescribed level.

37. (New) The pet drinking fountain as described in claim 36 wherein a bowl separate from the chamber collects water that flows down the external surface of the tank and to provide another source for pets to lap water.